



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

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Testimony in Opposition to: Raised Bill no. 5326 AN ACT ENCOURAGING THE PURCHASE OF FOOD PRODUCTS GROWN OR MADE IN CONNECTICUT.

Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Members of the Committee on General Law,

Agriculture is a \$3.5 billion industry comprising over 20,000 jobs in Connecticut according to a 2010 University of Connecticut study on the impact of the agricultural to the state's economy. There is significant interest in local foods and farm products. Connecticut is finally considering growth in agriculture as a legitimate economic development strategy.

Although the Connecticut Farm Bureau is in favor of farm-of-origin labeling and supportive the CT Grown program and efforts to identify and promote locally grown agricultural products, we are concerned that the Raised Bill No. 5326 would place an unreasonable burden on grocery stores to comply. In particular, we are concerned that many grocers would need to make significant investment in system upgrades in order to comply with the provisions as outlined in section (b). As an alternative we would like to encourage the promotion of the CT Grown program and encourage the use of voluntary labeling programs to meet consumer demands for CT Grown products.

CT Farm Bureau therefore urges the defeat of Raised Bill No. 5326 as drafted.